Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

Distr.: Limited
17 October 2018

Original: English

Ninth session
Vienna, 15–19 October 2018

Draft report

Rapporteur: Maite Fernández García (Argentina)

Addendum

II. General discussion

1. At its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 16 October 2018, the Conference considered agenda item 1 (f), entitled "Organizational matters: general discussion".

2. The Conference heard statements by the representatives of Thailand, France, Chile, the United States of America, Tunisia, Ecuador, Argentina, Spain, Switzerland, Israel, Kuwait, Norway, Algeria, the Republic of Korea, Belarus, Iraq, Portugal, Fiji, the State of Palestine, Nepal, Nigeria, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Lebanon, Kenya, Costa Rica, the Philippines, Liechtenstein, Armenia, Bangladesh, India, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Libya.

3. The Conference also heard a statement by the representative of Somalia, an observer State.

4. The Conference further heard a statement by the observers for the International Anti-Corruption Academy, an intergovernmental organization, and the Libyan Transparency Association, a non-governmental organization.

Deliberations

5. Several speakers expressed support for the Organized Crime Convention as an indispensable tool to address transnational organized crime. Speakers shared information on national efforts to establish and strengthen legislative and administrative frameworks aimed at implementing the Convention and the Protocols thereto. Most speakers highlighted the measures their countries had established to enhance the investigation and prosecution of various forms of organized crime, including trafficking in persons, the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in firearms, corruption, obstruction of justice and money-laundering. Several speakers also highlighted national preventive mechanisms to address organized crime. Those included educational and awareness-raising programmes targeting vulnerable groups, including women, young people and children.

6. Several speakers emphasized that national and regional regulatory frameworks had been established that were aimed at combating trafficking in persons, the smuggling of migrants and related offences. Several speakers reported on measures

Please recycle

taken by their countries to protect and rehabilitate victims of such offences. Some speakers noted that those efforts were pertinent to the observance of international human rights norms and good governance. Some speakers expressed hope that the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, which is to be signed in December 2018, will offer solutions to address the challenges posed by those crimes.

7. Speakers reported on national measures developed to address cybercrime, wildlife and environmental crimes, maritime crime, trafficking in cultural property, trafficking in human organs and trafficking in precious metals. Many speakers stated that the Organized Crime Convention remained an essential instrument that assisted States in combating these forms of crime, in particular through its provisions on international cooperation.

8. Some speakers expressed concern about the linkages between organized crime and terrorism, which undermine the social and economic stability of their countries and regions. Some speakers also highlighted the need to take into account these linkages to effectively combat transnational organized crime.

9. Many speakers emphasized the importance of the Convention as a tool to facilitate international cooperation to address transnational organized crime, including through bilateral, regional and international efforts. Some speakers underlined the important role played by various international forums, including the Conference and various regional bodies, as platforms for sharing relevant information and experiences.

10. Many speakers expressed support for the work of the meeting for the purpose of defining the specific procedures and rules for the functioning of the review mechanism for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto. Several speakers expressed appreciation for the role played by Pilar Saborío de Rocafort (Costa Rica) and Maria Assunta Accilli Sabbatini (Italy) as co-chairs over the past two years. Many speakers welcomed the continuation of discussions on the establishment of a review mechanism during the ninth session of the Conference with a view to reaching agreement on outstanding issues, such as the participation of civil society in the mechanism and the source of funding for the mechanism. Some speakers stated that it would be important that the Conference adopt the review mechanism at its ninth session.

11. Several speakers expressed appreciation to UNODC for the technical and capacity-building assistance provided to States parties for the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto. Speakers underscored the utility of carrying out institutional reforms and drafting and adopting implementing legislation, as well as of strengthening partnerships and networks among key stakeholders to effectively counter organized crime. Some speakers also requested the Office to continue providing support in those areas, based on the needs of countries for technical assistance.